

## Serving those injured in service to Canada

Jeff Morris and Jamie Hanlon

The University of Alberta has announced Canada's first research chair dedicated to the rehabilitation of injured soldiers and veterans.

The Canadian Military and Veterans' Chair in Clinical Rehabilitation will create a national research network dedicated solely to military rehabilitation while highlighting the real influence that university research chairs can have on national clinical practices, says Martin Ferguson-Pell, dean of the U of A's Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine.

"We know the formula works. This

**"We will see the best minds at the University of Alberta... come together to do one thing: build academic capacity to advance knowledge and ensure that we can provide the best possible clinical care for our soldiers and veterans."**

Martin Ferguson-Pell

new chair at the University of Alberta will improve clinical rehabilitation care for our soldiers and veterans," said Ferguson-Pell. "We will see the best minds at the University of Alberta—and at other institutions across this country—come together to do one thing: build academic capacity to advance knowledge and ensure that we can provide the best possible clinical care for our soldiers and veterans."

Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Donald Ethell was in attendance May 9 for the announcement at Edmonton's James Curry Jefferson Armory. The veteran peacekeeper was among the six government, university and military officials to emphasize the importance of the chair.

Continued on page 2

## The art of flight



Sunlight catches the wings of a crow soaring in front of the mural on the north side of the Education Centre.

## \$20 million gift supports an APPLE a day in Alberta's schools

Donna Richardson

The University of Alberta is expanding a program aimed at reversing poor health trends among Alberta children, thanks to a \$20-million gift from a U of A alumnus May 10.

U of A alumnus Allan Markin made an additional \$15-million donation to the Alberta Project Promoting active Living & healthy Eating in Schools, or APPLE Schools, following his initial \$5-million gift in 2008.

Markin decided to fortify APPLE Schools funding after researchers began reporting improved nutritional habits, increased physical activity levels and a reduction in obesity levels among children in participating schools.

"I just want to thank the University of Alberta for making this program happen," says Markin, an Alberta businessman and philanthropist. "The APPLE Schools team knows how to create healthy communities. Now we know for sure that if we make it fun and easy for kids they can develop healthy habits for life."

By September 2011, APPLE Schools will run in 41 Alberta schools. This includes urban, rural, and First

Nations, Metis and Inuit schools.

Since 2008, APPLE Schools has been operating in 10 Edmonton-area schools to create environments that support lifelong health and learning. Under the direction of Paul Veugelers, a professor in the School of Public Health whose research on health-promoting school programs has received international attention, the program has been instrumental in creating healthy school communities in Alberta.

Research conducted by Veugelers in 2008 showed that only 27 per cent of Grade 5 students in Alberta met the recommendations for vegetable and fruit intake, whereas 67 per cent ate junk food twice a week. The study also revealed that 29 per cent of the students were overweight or obese.

"The aim of APPLE Schools is to develop healthy lifestyles and, ultimately, reduce chronic disease," says Veugelers, who holds a Canada Research Chair in Population Health. He explains that overweight children are at greater risk for Type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer and other chronic diseases.

"Our research has also shown that children who eat healthy foods and

who are physically active are more likely to perform better in school," adds Veugelers, highlighting the broader impact of the program.

"We are very grateful to Allan Markin for his vision and generosity," says President Indira Samarasekera. "A lot can be accomplished when certain conditions are in place—talented researchers doing credible, action-based studies, professional health facilitators with the skills to create healthier environments, enthusiastic schools eager to change their students' lives for the better—and a donor willing to provide the major resources needed to make it all happen."

Each participating school has a dedicated health facilitator who col-

laborates with parents, students, school staff and the surrounding community. Together, they create environments that support lifelong health and learning. This may include fun activities such as planting classroom gardens or scheduling family fun nights in the school gymnasium.

Annually, researchers measure change in knowledge, attitude and behaviour of the children. Results are shared with the schools, so that the information may be used to modify action plans in order to improve the health of children."

"In the APPLE Schools environment the healthy choice is the easy choice for children," said Veugelers.



Allan Markin and President Indira Samarasekera take saying "cheese" to the next level during a light moment at the APPLE Schools gift announcement in Fort McMurray May 10.

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# folio

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## Clark named as VP (finance and administration) for a third term

Michael Brown

The Board of Governors has reappointed Phyllis Clark as the University of Alberta's vice-president (finance and administration), effective July 1, 2012 for a third five-year term.

"Phyllis has led the U of A to become recognized for its excellent financial reporting and transparent and responsible business practices," said President Indira Samarasekera. "In almost a decade with the U of A, she has led us in the reorganization of human resources, the introduction of Smartforms and more recently, the consolidation of our email servers to Google's Gmail system."

Clark joined the U of A in 2001, coming from Ontario where she served as vice-president of finance and human resources at York University, and before that as Ontario's chief economist and deputy minister of the provincial treasury. She assumed responsibility for

a finance and administration portfolio that now oversees financial services, human resources, safe disclosure and human rights, policy, strategic analysis, supply management, the Office of the Vice-Provost (Information Technology)—the administrative information systems (the provost oversees academic IT) and risk-management services.

Fortunate to have been always able to work with budgets that have "supported the things that we need them to support in the academy, while still keeping the university relatively strong," Clark says she has been able to focus much of her attention on ushering in the IT revolution that has taken hold during her tenure at the U of A.

"Information technology is transforming the way we do our business," said Clark, "but we need to better exploit the IT systems that we have."

"We have an administrative efficiency and effectiveness review coming up and I would like to come out of it as close to paperless as we can."

She adds, "We don't have to need an increasing share of the precious resources we have to keep the institution running. We just want to make sure we can do things better without costing us more going forward."

Clark says she also wants to focus her next term on simplifying the ever-growing list of industry and government regulations that unnecessarily eat at university funds.

"We are continually being hit with regulation changes and a tightening up of rules, which is getting frustrating," said Clark. "It means more forms and more rules, which need to filter through the university. All of that takes time and energy. I would like to change that."

And while many aspects of Clark's role have evolved over the decade she has helped lead the university,

Clark says the job is still about people.

"I have to run hard to keep up to the people who work for me, and that's great," said Clark. "The executive team has really coalesced into a dynamic group of people that has worked well



Phyllis Clark

together over the years. It helps that Indira is very forward thinking."

Clark says the university administrators are also blessed to have good relationships with both the academic and the non-academic staff associations, as well as with a provincial government that has always been extremely generous in its support of post-secondary education in Alberta.

"We have such a great situation with those relationships and we have to make sure we can continue to build on it," she said. "It is just the best university in Canada to work for, in my opinion."

## Historical support from donors helps fuel a banner year

Michael Brown

On May 9, University of Alberta staff were joined at the Westin Hotel by various university stakeholders to receive an update on the university's accomplishments and challenges from the past year, and to hear an outline of the year ahead.

The evening, which included the sharing of the U of A's *Serving Through Knowledge: 2011 Report to the Community*, saw President Indira Samarasekera speak to a long list of accomplishments, starting with the continuation of the university's first-rate teaching and research environment while the university continued to put an emphasis upon face-to-face contact between students and professors.

"I am pleased to report that more than 60 per cent of our undergraduate classes now have 25 students or less, and more than 80 per cent of our undergraduate classes have 50 students or less," said Samarasekera. "We continue to receive accolades for the high quality of

undergraduate teachers on campus." The president also discussed how U of A students have access to some of the world's leading thinkers in fields as diverse as carbon sequestration to Islamic studies to print making.

**"The fact that donors, governments and other partners are willing to invest so much in the U of A is humbling—and we are very grateful."**

Indira Samarasekera

Some of the highlights of the past year also included two 3M National Teaching Fellowships, given to faculty members Billy Srean and Scott North. This brings the number of 3M awards at the U of A to 34, 13 more than any other university.

In the spring of 2010, the U of A boosted its faculty and research capacity when it succeeded in securing four new Canada Excellence Research Chairs—the greatest number of any campus in the country. In this new federal funding program, each of the U of A's four CERCs will receive \$10 million over seven years to build on the U of A's already established excellence in oilsands, Arctic, virology and diamond extraction research.

The U of A has expanded the Helmholtz Alberta Initiative, a partnership formed in 2009 with the Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres, and supported by a \$25-million investment from the Alberta government. This partnership initially focused on research related to the sustainable development of the oilsands and other heavy hydrocarbon resources but has moved into areas such as infectious disease and neuroscience.

In addition to strong government investment, Samarasekera singled out the historical support from donors in the

past year, which included a \$28 million gift from the Li Ka Shing (Canada) Foundation and \$52.5 million in new related funding from the Government of Alberta—the largest cash donation in the university's history—to establish the Li Ka Shing Institute for Virology. The university also received a 5,000-hectare ranch in southeast Alberta from Edwin and Ruth Mattheis—the largest land gift ever given to a Canadian university, as well as the home of Sandy and Cécile Mactaggart, which capped a philanthropic legacy now amounting to an unprecedented \$100 million in donations and gifts in kind.

"The fact that donors, governments and other partners are willing to invest so much in the U of A is humbling—and we are very grateful," said Samarasekera. "With your support, the U of A's impact continues to grow within this city, across the province and country, and increasingly throughout the world."

To view this year's report to the community, go to [www.report.ualberta.ca](http://www.report.ualberta.ca).

## The Canadian Military and Veterans' Chair in Clinical Rehabilitation

Continued from page 1

"This is a huge leap forward," says Ethell. "I spent 40 years in the military and there was no thought of this before."

Once named, the chair will work closely with other researchers and clinicians from across Canada and with American researchers in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

"We're engaged in an effort to recruit the best person, someone who will be an international leader in his or her field, someone who has deep understanding of the Canadian Forces' culture and someone who can move easily and with confidence in the academic and military worlds," said Ferguson-Pell.

"The Canadian Forces welcomes this important initiative by the University of Alberta and looks forward to working with partners across the province to better the rehabilitation of our injured soldiers and veterans," said Peter MacKay, minister of national defence. "Men and women in uniform who stand on guard for our great nation deserve the very best care, and I'm hopeful that initiatives such as this will provide our ill and injured personnel access to cutting-edge care and support."

The provincial government is also lauding the establishment of this critical research chair, whose work will impact Canadian soldiers and veterans within the province and throughout the country. Doug Horner, MLA for Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert, is supportive of the announcement hon-

ouring those who serve. "They are prepared to put themselves in harm's way; we should be prepared to do all we can when they need us," he said. "This is an investment in that debt we owe."

University of Alberta Chancellor Linda Hughes drew attention at the announcement to the long-standing relationship between the University of Alberta and the Canadian Forces.

"Almost precisely a full century ago, Gordon Stanley Fife, one of the university's first professors, headed overseas to fight for his country," said Hughes. "The ties between the University of Alberta and the Canadian military are strong, and they are about to become even stronger through the Canadian Military and Veterans' Chair in Clinical Rehabilitation."

Tonya Corry, a member of 11 Field Ambulance in Victoria and recent graduate of the University of Alberta's occupational therapy program, represents one of the most current ties.

"The basis of sound public policy and good clinical care rests on a foundation of solid, informed research," says Corry. "This will become a truly national research network, with the U of A at its core."

"[The U of A] is a national and international leader in so many disciplinary areas," says Ferguson-Pell. "Today we celebrate another addition to that highly regarded and well-earned reputation for leadership."



Keith Ross, a physical therapy alumnus from the U of A and a member of the Canadian Forces, walks a soldier through a rehabilitation exercise.



# From iron lungs to Wiis: Occupational therapy turns 50

Michael Davies-Venn

A large population of veterans in Western Canada and an outbreak of polio in the 1950s were the precursors to the provincial government asking the University of Alberta to establish an occupational therapy program.

Leonard Allbon, former occupational therapy professor and the program's first chair, came to Edmonton from the United Kingdom to start the Department of Occupational Therapy in 1960.

"When I arrived, there were wards full of people, at the University of Alberta Hospital and the Royal Alexandra Hospital, with iron lungs; they were patients with polio who needed assistance in breathing who used these metal containers," said Allbon, who will join alumni, staff and students in celebrating the department's 50-year anniversary at Lister Centre May 14.

Eventually the iron lungs disappeared, but Allbon and his nine-member staff continued preparing students to learn and practice in communities in Edmonton, Calgary and Saskatchewan. Those first occupational-therapy students were

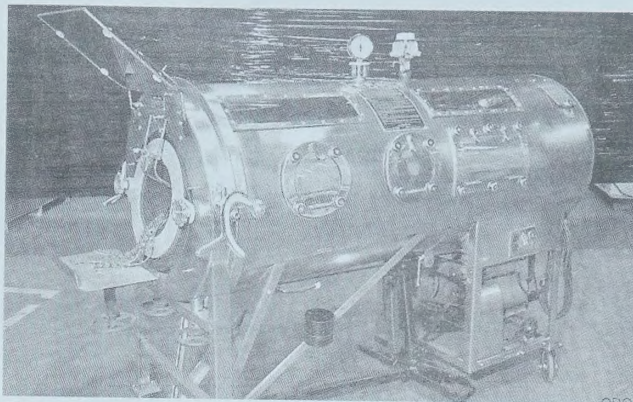
taught how to use weaving and sewing to help rehabilitate patients.

Today, the program is still taking innovative leads as it prepares students to heal a diverse client base, which still includes victims of polio and war veterans.

"People who had polio 50 years ago now have post-polio syndrome and have aged with the disability," said Lili Liu, chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy, which exists within the U of A's Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine. "We've also come full circle now, in that the needs of military veterans are gaining attention again, particularly from a mental and physical health perspective."

In order to better serve the needs of those injured in military service, the U of A announced the first research chair in Canada dedicated to the rehabilitation of injured soldiers and veterans May 10.

In decades past, Liu says occupational therapy has served people suffering from stroke, spinal-cord injuries, mental health and chronic conditions with seniors. However, she says the discipline is evolving to include working on ways to remove stigmatization associated with disability.



This iron lung, used to help victims of polio breathe, is a relic left over from the first days of the U of A's Department of Occupational Therapy 50 years ago.

"Many of us are trying now to communicate that a person is only as disabled as their environment makes them. If we're going to be successful health-care professionals, we need to speak to the dignity of a person," she said. "Why is it that some products, such as walking cane or wheelchair, are designed to give an institutional look? It just screams out the message, 'I'm sick,' or 'I'm fat' or 'I'm blind.' It stigmatizes."

By also using newer technologies, such as the Nintendo Wii, Liu says the department is ahead of others. "The

Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital was the first hospital in North America to use the Nintendo Wii for stroke patients. Now it's quite common."

Also popular now is the program itself, which Allbon says had only a single student at one point. Today, more than 100 students graduate from the program each year.

"It was obviously a successful program, so I had no doubt that it would continue. But it's a bit amazing to me now that it got as big as it did," Allbon said. ■

## Researchers closer to understanding the immunity of bacteria

Quinn Phillips

Researchers at the University of Alberta have taken an important step in understanding the immune system of bacteria, a finding that could have implications for medical care and both the pharmaceutical and dairy industries.

In research published in the journal *Nature Structural & Molecular Biology*, Andrew MacMillan and co-workers in his lab have described the first step of the immune response of bacterial cells. Scientists had previously found that a bacterial virus, called a bacteriophage, attacks a bacterial cell by injecting its DNA into the cell. MacMillan's lab discovered the mechanism by which bacterial RNA is cut into pieces by a specific protein; these pieces then target the invading virus' DNA.

"We are starting at the beginning because we want to understand how this works and how we can use this to basically control bacterial growth," said Matt Schellenberg, a post-doctoral fellow in the MacMillan lab in the Department of Biochemistry in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry. This system could be beneficial for bacteria to fight off an invasion of viruses. Alternatively, medical professionals could use knowledge of this system to help fight a human bacterial infection.

The mystery behind the immune system of bacteria has implications in everything from cheese and yogurt production to the synthesis of complex pharmaceuticals.

According to MacMillan they used a technique called X-ray crystallography to produce high-resolution pictures of a key step in the bacteria's immune response—the production of the targeting RNAs.

"Bacteria have evolved this system to protect themselves against infection," said MacMillan.

As they unfold the mystery of the bacteria cell's immune system, which is named the CRISPR system, there are implications for a variety of industrial practices involving fermentation. Everything from cheese and yogurt production to the synthesis of complex pharmaceuticals relies on large-scale bacterial fermentation, which is at risk of bacteriophage infection with expensive consequences—losing the batch. The lab's ongoing work could help these industries boost the immune systems of the "good" bacteria.

The next step for the lab is to uncover the mechanism by which virus DNA is destroyed.

"We want to use what we've learned so far to examine the actual targeting mechanism," says MacMillan. "This is a complex pathway, and there's a lot of exciting biology to still uncover." ■

## Using sport to challenge attitudes helps land Trudeau Scholarship

Sandra Pysklywyc

Paralympian, world champion and world MVP in wheelchair basketball are just a few of Danielle Peers' accomplishments.

Now the graduate student in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation at the University of Alberta can add Trudeau Scholar to her already impressive resumé.

Known to many as "Doc" Peers, she has been awarded the prestigious \$180,000 Trudeau scholarship and joins a community of creative, accomplished thinkers and doers tackling issues of fundamental importance to Canadians.

Peers' research includes assessing how the perceptions held by Canadians influence the rights and opportunities of disabled citizens, and how the images of disabled athletes like Rick Hansen or Terry Fox influence these perceptions and rights. She says, "I am truly excited about being part of this collaborative, community-oriented program."

For Peers, being a Trudeau Scholar means spending much more time and energy on doing research and disseminating it, rather than finding the funds for it.



Danielle Peers

"The funding [from the Trudeau scholarship] allows me to spend time in, and stay connected to, the vibrant disability and disability-sport communities in which I work as an activist, coach and volunteer, which in turn fuels my academic interest and knowledge in the area," she said.

Interaction in non-academic situations, including public policy networks and public forums, is a key component of the Trudeau scholarship program. Peers notes the various Trudeau conferences and public interaction programs are some of the things that make this scholarship stand out.

"These [conferences and programs] help scholars engage collaboratively in exciting new multi-disciplinary ways, looking at how they produce knowledge, while helping the scholars' research reach other scholars, students and, importantly, policy makers, practitioners and members of the public, who can help turn these new ideas into new ways of thinking and acting," said Peers.

She is the seventh U of A graduate student to be chosen for the Trudeau scholarship since the scholarship's inception in 2002. But she is no stranger to awards: Peers is also a Vanier Canada Graduate Scholar and a U of A alumni Horizon Award

Winner. Peers holds a bachelor of arts degree in sociology and a master's in physical education and recreation. She is currently working on her PhD in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation at the U of A as a member of the Body, Movement and Culture Research Group.

Zoe Todd, a social anthropologist who received a bachelor of science (2006) and a master's of science (2010) at the U of A, received a Trudeau Scholarship to examine the impact of mining development in the Northwest Territories on women's subsistence fishing. Todd is doing her research at the University of Aberdeen, U.K.

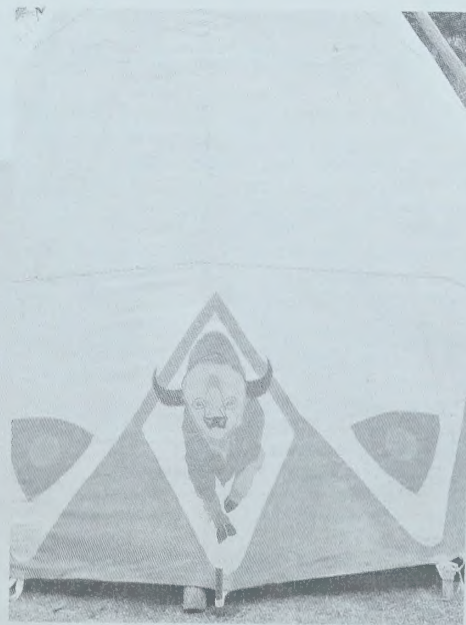
Trudeau scholarships are among the most coveted awards of their kind in Canada and are granted to social sciences and humanities students who are examining matters of present-day concern to Canadians in key areas such as the environment, international affairs, responsible citizenship and human rights and dignity. Many Trudeau Scholars go on to become leading national and international figures.

In addition to the generous financial prize, Trudeau Scholars benefit from the expertise and knowledge of Trudeau Fellows and Mentors, highly accomplished individuals in the Trudeau community who are leaders in both academic and non-academic settings. ■

## Are You a Winner?

Congratulations to Ray Vivian, whose name was drawn as part of folio's May "Are You a Winner?" contest. Vivian correctly identified the photo in question as being located on the west side of St. Joseph's College. For his correct answer, Vivian has won a emblazoned water bottle, as well as a U of A bookmark.

Up for grabs this week is a trusty U of A-issue stainless-steel coffee mug, as well as a U of A bookmark. To win, simply email what building the photo is of and email your answer to folio@exr.ualberta.ca by noon on Friday, May 27, and you will be entered into the draw.



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The Faculty of Native Studies held its annual Tipi raising in front of Pembina Hall May 10.

## The president's response to the report to the Premier's Council for Economic Strategy

Indira Samarasekera  
President and Vice-Chancellor

### the open door

On Thursday, May 5, the Premier's Council for Economic Strategy released its final report: *Shaping Alberta's Future*. The recommendations and findings of the council are an important, indeed crucial, step to building the framework that will secure a prosperous future for Alberta.

The council was challenged by the premier to examine what Albertans must do to sustain prosperity through to 2040 and beyond, to ensure that future generations of Albertans enjoy even greater opportunity than the province currently enjoys, and to make the Alberta of the future a great place to live, work and raise one's family.

The council's 116-page report outlines five themes and five big ideas, or flagship initiatives. By moving forward with these themes and ideas, Alberta will be powerfully and effectively positioned as a global leader. This will come to be through the creation of an environment that will attract the world's finest talent, prompt the development of international partnerships and expand and promote the province's global investment opportunities.

The University of Alberta was pleased last summer to make a submission to the council, during the council's fact-finding and information gathering work. I am pleased that our recommendations are reflected in the themes and initiatives outlined in the report the council presented.

Specifically, for example, "Theme 2" of *Shaping Alberta's Future* points to the need to "reduce the vulnerabil-

ity that comes with heavy reliance on energy sales to only one market, the United States, by applying knowledge in new ways to get greater value, and delivering new products and services into new markets." It is the very work of the University of Alberta, and the province's other universities, to develop the talent and drive the innovation and discovery required to facilitate the transfer of knowledge that will broaden Alberta's economic base as identified in the council's report.

The U of A will also be an instrumental partner in helping Alberta achieve the objective of the council's third theme—preparing the province to prosper in a global economy. The institutions of Campus Alberta will equip Albertans to drive economic, social and cultural growth by becoming resilient lifelong learners who are eager to achieve and perform in an increasingly interconnected world. Simply put, Alberta's prosperity requires top talent able to compete with the best the world has to offer. It is Alberta's universities that are critical partners in developing and attracting these innovative leaders and visionaries.

The council's report acknowledges the important role that the province's post-secondary sector must play in ensuring Alberta's continued success and prosperity. The pace and scope of change today make preparing for the future identified in the council's report a daunting challenge.

The U of A is up to that challenge and eager to be a key partner in supporting the province as it drives toward a prosperous future. ■

## Provost takes grass-roots approach to connecting the U of A globally

Michael Davies-Venn

Universities work best when major initiatives come from the ground up, says University of Alberta provost Carl Amrhein. To help translate that idea into action and bring the campus community together for discussions on connecting the university globally, Amrhein has established the Standing Advisory Council on International Engagement.

"The hardest to quantify, but one of the critical roles of SACIE, is individual people talking to me about their experiences, about what works and what does not," Amrhein said on the group's work. "SACIE is the voices of the many, of each faculty having their voices at the table."

"It is the faculty, staff and students that define why we're in existence, so it's always best if we do what works best for them. The university is the sum total of what the faculty, staff and students do. The rest of us are in the role of creating an enabling environment," he said.

Included among the group's initiatives aimed at developing an international strategy are developing cooperation with other countries and forming global partnerships, creating more opportunities for U of A students to study abroad and targeting international student recruitment.

So far, Amrhein says the university is making good inroads into improving student mobility, thanks to initiatives aimed at identifying a clear central supporting mechanism, alleviating some of the financial burden of studying abroad and aligning programs with partner institutions.

As part of its internationalization strategy, Amrhein says the U of A is working closely with Mexico, United States, Germany, China, India and, more recently, Brazil, the addition of

"The hardest to quantify, but one of the critical roles of SACIE, is individual people talking to me about their experiences, about what works and what does not. SACIE is the voices of the many, of each faculty having their voices at the table."

Carl Amrhein

which represents how a grass-root approach to internationalization works.

"It was input from SACIE that in part convinced us to create Brazil as a priority country," said Amrhein. "Brazil has very strong ties to Canada and a sophisticated post-secondary system, and we have a number of professors who'd like to work with people there. I also had visits from some influential members of the community doing business in Brazil."

Central to the university's efforts at connecting with the world is U of A International, which Amrhein describes as the university's "Foreign Service." He says Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President (International) Britta Baron, who heads the unit, has built UAI on the level of a foreign ministry.

"Under her guidance, we have greatly increased the number of students coming to U of A. She has energized relationships with a number of the deans," he said. "She and her team, including Cen Huang, acting director and assistant vice-president (international), played an important role in getting us into China."

A recent group, called Consortium of the Universities of Alberta, Laval, Dalhousie and Ottawa (CALDO), co-founded by Baron to unite efforts to recruit top international students to Canada, is also an important part of the university's international strategy.

"The consortium pools resources for master's and PhD students who come with sponsorship from their

governments, corporations or foundations in their home country," Baron said. "Our experience was that often these sponsoring organizations do not want to deal with individual universities."

Baron says CALDO was able to bring more than 70 research interns from China and India to work with researchers at the U of A. Going the other way, UAI established a Summer Language Scholarship program that enabled 50 U of A students to go abroad to study another language.

"If we had more money, I'd be inclined to make an international experience mandatory," said Amrhein. "But until we have resources, it's disingenuous to make something mandatory that requires a large expense on the part of students without any financial support. I hope to encourage students to imagine going abroad for some portion of their program, even if it is just a summer workshop somewhere."

The provost adds that the U of A has more international graduate students than other universities and is ahead on large research undertakings globally. He says he believes ongoing efforts at internationalization will ultimately help make the world a better place.

"It's a belief in the global-village concept, that the world is a set of tightly coupled political jurisdictions but that humanity is in fact humanity, and the world is safer the more we get to know each other," he said. ■

# surf city

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## Researchers find potential MS therapy could kill brain cells

Raquel Maurier

Researchers with the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry at the University of Alberta have discovered that some "protective" T-cells can kill neurons. This finding is significant because a specific type of T-cell therapy is being touted in the medical community as a potential treatment for multiple sclerosis and other autoimmune conditions.

Fabrizio Giuliani and his post-doctoral fellow, Yohannes Haile, both from the Division of Neurology, collaborated on this research, which was recently published in the *Journal of Leukocyte Biology*, a peer-reviewed medical journal.

"Using T-cells has been seen as a potential treatment for autoimmune diseases," says Giuliani. "But these cells are supposed to be regulatory; when activated, they can kill. In our hands, at least, they were able to kill neurons. So this is very important. In MS literature, they were starting to talk about using the infusion of these cells

as treatment. But this area needs to be studied more before these cells are used as a therapy for MS patients."

The finding was serendipitous, says Giuliani. "We were using some of the cells that we have described here as a control in our project. Then the T-cells did something interesting, something we weren't expecting.

In fact, we were expecting the exact opposite response with these cells.

"We were looking at how a specific type of T-cell could prevent neuronal death, and then we found out they were doing the killing. These are the best findings—when you are expecting something different and then you observe an amazing phenomenon."

The primary role of T-cells is to attack foreign viruses or bacteria and to regulate or maintain immune system tolerance. However, when T-cell tolerance is disrupted, it can cause autoimmune diseases.

Researchers had thought if they could carefully collect regulatory T-cells and inject them into patients with autoimmune diseases, these T-

**"Using T-cells has been seen as a potential treatment for autoimmune diseases. But these cells are supposed to be regulatory; when activated, they can kill. In our hands, at least, they were able to kill neurons."**

Fabrizio Giuliani

## Pointing the finger



Studio Theatre's production of the *"The Cripple of Inishmaan"* by Martin McDonagh is playing at the Timms Centre for the Arts until May 28.

cells could keep autoimmune diseases under control. For example, work with lab models that had multiple sclerosis and were treated with T-cells was promising. However, recent studies of human cells have shown humans have different subpopulations of T-cells, of which some do not have a regulatory function.

Giuliani and Haile worked with different subpopulations of T-cells and discovered some were toxic to neurons. Giuliani and his colleague are the first medical researchers to demonstrate that activating a specific type of T-cell can kill brain cells. They want to continue their work in this area to determine what causes some T-cells to

behave this way. "We want to take the research further. We want to continue this story in an attempt to try and solve the mystery."

Their research was funded by the MS Society of Canada, the University of Alberta Hospital Foundation and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. ■

## Interdisciplinary 'Smart Condo' team shares collaborative teaching award

Jeff Morris

Seven University of Alberta faculty members have come together to solve real-world problems, and they're winning awards while they're at it.

The University Teaching Awards Committee has awarded this year's Collaborative Teaching Unit Award to the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine's Lili Liu, chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy, and her "Smart Condo" project team: the Department of Industrial Design's Robert Lederer and Greig Rasmussen; the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences' Cheryl Sadowski and Lisa Guirguis, and the Department of Computing Science's Eleni Stroulia and Ioanis Nikolaidis.

The Collaborative Teaching Unit Award celebrates excellence in teaching among groups of instructors working together to create an outstanding learning environment.

Liu's collaboration began in the 1990s when

a colleague approached her looking to give his industrial-design students an opportunity to work within the health-care sector. The instructors asked their students to start working together to design products for an aging population.

"Occupational therapists have a very creative approach to problem solving," says Liu. "But the opportunity to collaborate with industrial design meant we could get experts in the design field to make prototypes and design for the market."

Over 10 years, occupational therapy and physiotherapy students worked closely with industrial-design students to come up with more than 100 marketable solutions to the problems being faced by older adult populations. Sticking to the collaborative formula, Liu's team moved its focus beyond product design and into the broad scope of environmental design.

From there, the departments of computing science and pharmacy joined the mix and the Smart Condo project was born. For three consecutive years, students have collaborated

to design a simulated living environment located in the U of A's Edmonton Clinic Health Academy.

The course revolves around interdisciplinary teamwork among students, and helps clearly define each student's individual disciplinary role.

"It fosters and strengthens their disciplinary identities," says Liu. "The students gain a clear understanding of the overlaps or boundaries of each discipline."

The Smart Condo is also developing a community partnership with Edmonton's Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital, enabling the students to work closely with practicing caretakers.

"The students get to see that the research they are doing is having a direct impact on the care that they will be providing," says Liu. "We incorporate our research with immediate and best practice."

"The students do things collaboratively, meeting each individual course requirement, but the final project and the learning experience extends well beyond the interdisciplinary group work," she says.

**"[Interdisciplinary teamwork] fosters and strengthens their disciplinary identities. The students gain a clear understanding of the overlaps or boundaries of each discipline."**

Lili Liu

Liu says there's enormous interdisciplinary potential for the Smart Condo project. The team is looking forward to getting back to collaborating when the Edmonton Health Clinic Academy opens its doors in the coming months.

"We want to build a larger research program and strengthen the interdisciplinary education opportunities."

"The Smart Condo project can only grow from here." ■

## Study shows children with FASD have less deep-gray brain matter

Raquel Maurier

Children and youth who have fetal alcohol spectrum disorders have less deep-gray matter in their brains compared to children who don't have the condition, according to a collaborative study by a multidisciplinary team of researchers at the University of Alberta. This difference affects the way messages are relayed in the brain.

Deep-gray matter acts as the brain's "relay stations" by sending and receiving many messages between different regions in the brain. Therefore a reduction in this gray matter would result in difficulties sending messages back and forth related to memory, emotions, cognition and motor function, says

Christian Beaulieu, an associate professor of biomedical engineering in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry and an AIHS (Alberta Innovates - Health Solutions) scientist.

Those with FASD can have a host of language, learning, physical, memory and behavioural problems caused by exposure to alcohol before they are born.

"The key point of the research was to determine what brain regions are different in children and adolescents diagnosed with FASD and whether this could explain their motor, cognitive and behavioural difficulties," said Beaulieu. "Our previous studies showed that the brain white-matter wiring was affected in FASD. And now we show that the deep-gray mat-

ter relay stations that integrate and convey information to the cortex are also different in FASD."

The research, which has been published in *Early View*, was conducted by Beaulieu, the senior author, in collaboration with Catherine Lebel from the Department of Biomedical Engineering, Alexa Nardelli from the School of Public Health, Carmen Rasmussen with the Department of Pediatrics, and Gail Andrew of the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital FASD Clinic.

The study looked at 28 children or youth with FASD who ranged in age from six to 17, and 56 similarly aged children who don't have the condition. Researchers took 3-D MRI images of the children's brains and analyzed all

six deep-gray-matter structures. They noted the children and youth who had FASD had reductions in all of the deep-gray matter in their brains.

"Most studies collapse all the ages, but we show that the volume reductions are across the full age range of six to 17 years," noted Beaulieu.

The research was funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research,

the Networks of Centres of Excellence - Canadian Language and Literacy Research Network, Alberta Innovates - Health Solutions, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the Alberta Science and Research Authority, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research and the University Hospital Foundation. ■

**"Our previous studies showed that the brain white-matter wiring was affected in FASD. And now we show that the deep-gray matter relay stations that integrate and convey information to the cortex are also different in FASD."**

Christian Beaulieu



# Dressing for the great outdoors

Bev Betkowski

Until Shauna Paisley Cooper was paralyzed by a mountain-biking accident three years ago, the mother of two was an avid athlete, who ran triathlons, played basketball and camped with her family. Now in a wheelchair, Cooper says she tries to spend as much time as she can outside with her twin daughters, teaching them to ride their bikes, play soccer and enjoy nature. But with Alberta's ever-changing and often bitter weather, it isn't always easy.

Dressing for the outdoors can be complicated, she says. "Jackets don't fit. I cut them in the back so they fit around my hips. The jacket can't be too bulky, or wheeling and driving are hard," says Cooper. "It's hard to find good technical and outdoor apparel for wheelchair users."

Enter University of Alberta professor Megan Strickfaden and two of her material culture design students, Vanessa Zembal and Shauna Force. Bundled with several classmates against a sharp wind and some wet snow, they accompanied Paisley Cooper on a three-hour trail ride into the gullies of Emily Murphy Park, to get a firsthand look at the kind of clothing needed for such an outdoor adventure. "This was more than a trail ride," said Strickfaden, who teaches in the Department of Human Ecology. "The goal of the class, Material Culture in Practice, is to conduct user-centred research into issues around design—in this case,

functional clothing. Because it is such a different situation in this case, the students needed to dig into what it is like to live with a disability." The trail ride, using special wheeled equipment resembling rickshaws, was arranged with two clients including Paisley Cooper, through the Canadian Paraplegic Association. She was eager to take part in the expedition, not only for the fun of it, but also for the knowledge that could come from it. Having had her own career in clothing retail management, Paisley Cooper was naturally interested in a project that could potentially improve design and fit for people with disabilities. As the journey got underway in the river valley, Zembal and Force quickly got a new understanding of the challenges facing people like Paisley Cooper when they take on the great outdoors in extreme temperatures. "Their circulation is poor, so they get cold all the time. Accommodating for that thermal loss and heat issues is really important, especially when designing for an outdoor winter activity," Zembal noted. The researchers also noticed that blankets used as lap robes during the trail ride quickly became sodden, and clothing bunched inconveniently around lifts, chairs and catheters.

Besides the physical changes needed to the outdoor clothing, psychological "comfort" factors need to be considered as well when designing adaptive clothing. "A lot of it is designed for the function of the clothing and the wearer, rather than accom-

modating for a social factor," said Zembal, who plans to study clothing marketing. For instance, colour choices and blending in with other people by wearing common items like jeans, were two simple but meaningful findings. Based on the field notes, video and photos taken during the outing, Zembal and Force drew up some recommendations for better designs of outdoor clothing. They hope their work will create a new school of thought for designers in a field that right now, offers what Zembal calls "stagnant" clothing choices. "It was rewarding to discover that there is a gap to fill," said Force, who hopes for a career in costume construction, and has a T-shirt business already in the works. "There are a lot



Material culture design students join Shauna Paisley Cooper (centre) for a trail ride to find out what kind of clothing people with disabilities need to better enjoy winter in Alberta.

of people with mobility impairment who do want to go outside and participate in activities designed for them. They want the clothing to go with them and their caregivers." Better gear can't come along soon enough for Paisley Cooper. "It's important for wheelchair users, people like me, to have access to technically advanced, fashionable and tailored-for-sitting apparel that enhances self-esteem to encourage wheelchair users to explore outdoor adventures." The time she spent wheeling along with Strickfaden, the students and her own family, was unforgettable, she added. "The snow falling was just beautiful. I didn't think I would be able to do a trail like that ever again."

# Research shows organisms could have evolved earlier than previously thought

Brian Murphy

A University of Alberta-led research team has discovered that billions of years before life evolved in the oceans, thin layers of microbial matter in shallow water produced enough oxygen to support tiny, mobile life forms. "Worm-like creatures could have lived on the oxygen produced by photosynthetic microbial material," said lead U of A researcher Murray Gingras. "Life sustaining oxygen was produced and stayed within what we call biomats even though oxygen concentrations in the surrounding water were not high enough to support life." The research was conducted in shallow lagoons in Venezuela where the high salt content is comparable to oceans older than 500 million years. The researchers say the link between biomats and animals is demonstrated by the trace-fossil


record, showing tracks left behind by the movements of the worm-like creatures. The trace-fossil records for these animals date to at least 555 million years ago. "These findings suggest that the appearance of animals was not dependent on an oxygenated ocean," said Gingras. "Rather, the earliest animals could have lived within photosynthetic biomats and derived life-sustaining oxygen from that source." The most widely accepted date for the start of animal life on Earth is 700 to 600 million years ago, when oxygen was produced in deep ocean water. Gingras is hopeful this research will spark further investigations. "We've opened the door to the search for life in early periods of the Earth's history, when it was believed there was absolutely no oxygen and no chance of finding life," said Gingras. The research was led by U of A geologist Murray Gingras and geomicrobiologist Kurt Konhauser. It was published May 15 online in *Nature Geoscience*.



Researchers dissect a biomat in a shallow lagoon in Venezuela.

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Sergeant Tony Thomsen on patrol at Augustana Campus in Camrose.

## Augustana Campus gets its man

Lisa Feng

Meet Sergeant Tony Thomsen, Augustana Campus' "boots on the ground" for the University of Alberta's Protective Services.

In September 2010, Sergeant Thomsen was appointed community peace officer at Augustana, making him the first UAPS member to work on the Camrose campus.

Thomsen's job is to uphold the primary responsibilities of the U of A's Protective Services: "to protect life and property, to maintain the peace, to render aid to those in need, and to enforce the laws, rules and regulations equitably and fairly." He joined UAPS following a stellar 25-year career in law enforcement with both the Lethbridge Regional Police and the Camrose Police Service, where he ultimately served as the sergeant in charge of the Major Crimes Unit.

Even after years of living in Camrose, Thomsen says he was surprised by the Augustana community nestled in the heart of the city. Upon arriving on campus, he says, "one of my first revelations was, 'I never knew what we really had here.' I had travelled through the campus while I was still policing and thought to myself, 'this is a nice place—quiet, peaceful,' but never appreciated what we had. I quickly learned that this truly is a community within a larger community, and this campus presents both outstanding history and potential going forward."

Thomsen has spent his first year on the job forging relationships with Augustana's administration, staff and students, as well as with members of the wider Camrose community. Much of his time has been spent giving advice on safety, security and crime prevention to key stakeholders in these communities, including Residence Life staff, for whom he hosted an in-service about UAPS in the fall. He is also

## staff spotlight

"I had travelled through the campus while I was still policing and thought to myself, 'this is a nice place—quiet, peaceful,' but never appreciated what we had."

Tony Thomsen

frequently consulted regarding safety precautions and security for major events on campus, such as the Augustana Centenary Kickoff in September, athletic tournaments and the U of A Round Dance, which brought more than 1,000 visitors to campus in January.

By being a regular presence, Thomsen is gradually building relationships with students and staff on campus, which he says is another key to keeping everyone protected. "It's not the responsibility of one person to make sure this is a safe campus; it's the responsibility of everybody who's involved in this community, and everybody is working together very collaboratively to make that happen."

As he looks to the immediate future, Sergeant Thomsen most looks forward to when the U of A's renowned "blue-phone" emergency safety system arrives on campus. In this system, a single-button speaker within a blue tower provides a direct link to UAPS. This system will allow Augustana students to access the UAPS headquarters any time of day or

night. UAPS can then monitor the student through video and audio to provide immediate protection and service.

As an important member of the Augustana Campus, Thomsen's pride in his new community is evident. "There's no doubt in my mind that University of Alberta Augustana Campus is one of the safest campuses in Canada. It's one of the safest places to further your education, and administration has taken extraordinary steps to ensure that it continues to be safe. And I'm part of that formula." ■



Tony Thomsen

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## U of A continues good showing in world ranking

Folio Staff

The University of Alberta has landed itself in the top 100 in three of six natural sciences categories in the latest release of the 2011 QS World University Rankings by subject.

Chemistry, math and earth sciences were given a spot within the top 100, with each subject garnering high marks for employer reputation. The U of A was ranked in the top 150 in areas of physics, metallurgy and environmental sciences. No specific rank is given to the institutions ranked above 50.

Previous QS World University Rankings rankings by subject released earlier in the year saw the university crack the top 100 in all three life science categories—medicine, biological sciences and psychology—including a ranking of 50th in psychology. As well, the U of A landed in the top 100 in all five of the ranking's individual technical subjects, which consisted of mechanical, aeronautical and manufacturing, civil and structural engineering, computer science and information systems, chemical engineering and electrical engineering.

According to QS World Univer-

sity Rankings officials, the ranking by subject responds to a need for comparative data that looks at specific areas of expertise in the institutions. As its centrepiece, the ranking uses academic reputation, which is gathered thanks to a short survey of more than 15,000 academics. Relevant employers are also polled about their recruitment tendencies. The ranking also factors in citations per paper.

In 2010, the overall QS World University Ranking had the U of A ranked 78th in the world, with a ranking of 74th in the category of engineering and IT. ■



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## Former firefighter brings experience, passion to new job

Jane Hurly

Bill McGarvey has found his perfect job—again.

"I am having the time of my life," is the way McGarvey, an exercise physiology doctoral graduate, former musician and retired firefighter, describes his serendipitous new career—or rather careers. For McGarvey's new occupation sees him wearing three different hats.

McGarvey, who obtained his doctoral degree from the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation in 2004, retired from fire fighting in 2009 after 30 years on the force and was invited to work as a research assistant to Stewart Petersen, director of the Work Physiology Laboratory and McGarvey's former PhD supervisor, and Mike Stickland, head researcher at the Northern Lung Centre.

McGarvey has also been asked to teach some undergraduate exercise-physiology classes and coordinate Petersen's firefighter testing laboratory, which conducts applicant testing for fire departments across northern Alberta.

"I like the variety," said McGarvey. "All three jobs are extremely interesting and different. Participants in Mike's studies have chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder. They basically come into the lab, lay on the bed, and I very quietly take different measurements to determine different aspects of their physiology. In Petersen's lab, they're on the treadmill in full [firefighter] gear, working hard—and the teaching is a unique experience, especially when you're standing in front of 60 students."

It would be an understatement to say that McGarvey's career has been adventurous. A gifted tenor saxophone player, he went to Grant MacEwan College for a music diploma after spending two years in the education faculty and one in physical education and recreation. When he graduated from MacEwan, McGarvey says he began looking for a career that allowed him to pursue his music career. That's when he found the fire department.

"When you go into a house that's on fire, it's pitch black with smoke. You're dragging a hose, you can't see anything in front of you, it's hot, you don't know where the fire is, whether above or below you, then all of a sudden you see a lick of fire on the stairs and up over your head," said McGarvey. "Each fire is different, exciting."

Among his most vivid memories from his fire fighting days is the night the tornado hit Edmonton in July 1987.

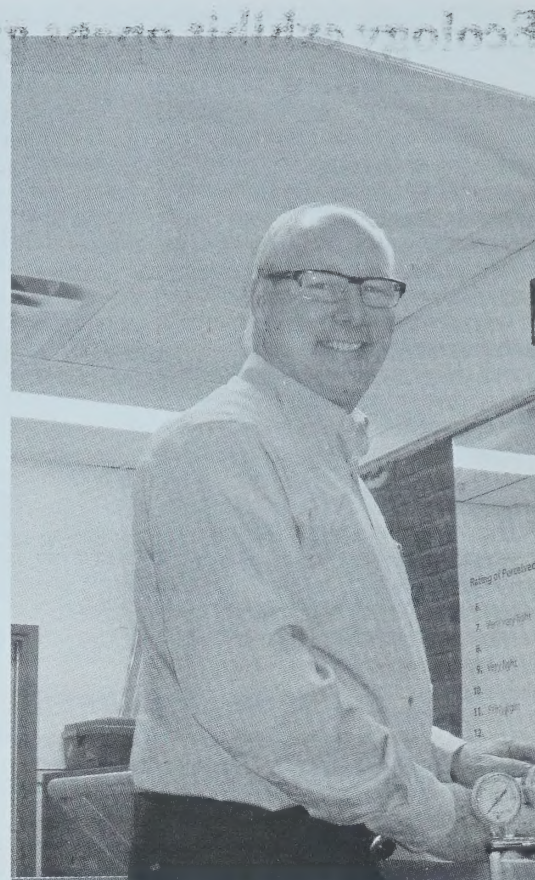
"We travelled to most of the sites that had been hit," said McGarvey, "seeing Belgravia Road flooded, semis and cars tossed upside down. In one part there was forest. I was in the back of the pump looking at trees, trees, trees, then suddenly all the trees were snapped off at about 10 feet. It was like a giant alleyway about 50 feet wide. Then we passed it and there were trees again."

At age 32, McGarvey came back to university, ready to tackle his unfinished degree. "I took a physiology class and fell in love with it," he says.

That growing interest led to a master's degree with Mohan Singh on muscular strength and endurance. This experience gave McGarvey a chance to work with the military to help develop applicant-testing protocols. With the desire to learn more, McGarvey pursued a doctoral degree under Petersen, looking at how the body uses fuels like carbohydrates and fats in the recovery period after moderate exercise and more intense interval training.

Although he never intended his education to turn into a new career, he does have advice for anyone wondering what career path they should follow.

"Of course you should follow your passion, but there are two sides to passion," said McGarvey. "You can find something that you're interested in and go after it, but you can also create a passion for anything you learn and love. The more you learn about something, the better you become at it. Go in with the right attitude and the right open mindedness and you'll probably develop a passion for it." ■



Bill McGarvey completed his PhD in 2004, then came back to wear the hats of research assistant, instructor and firefighter fitness laboratory coordinator.

## Surgeon wins prize for body of work looking into infant heart transplants

Raquel Maurier

A University of Alberta researcher has been lauded by the American Society for Transplantation, thanks to her work on the smallest of patients.

Lori West was awarded the Clinical Science Established Investigator Award, Professor Level in early May, for her "legendary" research contributions to the field of transplantation. Her research has shown that infants can safely have heart transplants from donors who are a different blood type or blood group.

"Normally, you need to match donor and recipient blood types for

a heart transplant, but we showed some years ago those rules don't apply to infants," says West. "Understanding they could have an incompatible

heart, a mismatched donor, opened up a potential donor pool to them that they had never had before.

"But beyond that, we studied the science of what happens to these children after they've had a mismatched heart transplant and we showed the immune system of the children becomes re-educated to the donor, so that they tend to remain less reactive to the donor blood group."

West, who is a Tier 1 Canada

Research Chair in Cardiac Transplantation, an Alberta Innovates-Health Solutions Senior Scholar and Director of Heart Transplantation Research in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, continues to conduct research in this area, trying to determine what changes within the immune system that makes it react less to the donor blood group. If researchers can figure out that mystery, it could give adult transplant patients new hope and possibilities, says West.

"We've been studying the im-

mune system for a decade," she says. "Part of our efforts are an attempt to understand how and why infant immune systems are less reactive to

donor blood group antigens. If we can really understand it at the cellular and molecular level, we might be able to develop strategies by which that could be used by older patients."

At the award ceremony, an AST representative noted West's work was "legendary."

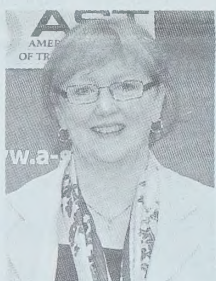
West said she was touched by the kind summary of her work.

"They talked about the impact

of my work in transplantation," says West, who is also a professor in pediatrics, surgery and immunology for the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry. "They recognized the whole body of my work—how combining the science and the research and the clinical service has made a lasting impression on patient care."

Earlier this year, West also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Canadian Society of Transplantation. She came to the U of A in 2005 from Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children.

Ultimately, West would like to see a system where there are enough donor organs available for every patient who needs them. And she would like to find a way to allow the immune system to accept donor organs without the use of anti-rejection drugs. ■



Lori West

## A party 100 years in the making

Christopher Thrall

From June 3 to 5, the University of Alberta's Augustana Campus in Camrose will host the biggest party of the last 100 years.

Hundreds of alumni from Augustana Campus, Augustana University College and the Camrose Lutheran College will visit their alma mater for a weekend of events, demonstrations and music culminating in Sunday's centenary convocation of the 2011 graduates.

"In this centennial year, it's my great privilege as dean of the campus to welcome alumni, friends and former staff to a homecoming and convocation weekend," said Augustana Dean Roger Epp. "Those of us who have been entrusted with the treasure of Augustana in this generation have been inspired by its history and the chance to retell its stories."

"But as we begin a second century we are also excited to share our trans-

formative new buildings and the educational aspirations that will continue to distinguish our campus."

After the reception and family campfire on Friday night, Vikings Athletics alumni will enjoy a pub night. Saturday will be packed with open houses from campus departments, lectures from current faculty and student demonstrations. Attendees are also invited to a barbecue and showcase stage featuring performances by alumni and faculty bands. Centenary installations will be on display all weekend, including an exhibition of student artwork from the past 18 years.

Several generations of Augustana choristers will perform together at Saturday's banquet. The banquet will be followed by a lounge featuring legendary Canadian rockers 54-40.

All Augustana alumni are welcome, as are all other U of A alumni, faculty, staff, students and community members. To register go to [www.augustana.ualberta.ca/homecoming/](http://www.augustana.ualberta.ca/homecoming/). ■



President Indira Samarasekera and Dean Roger Epp sit on a bench the U of A dedicated to Augustana as a centenary gift Sept. 21, 2010.



## Ecology exhibit opens grandma's sewing basket

Bev Betkowsky

Students who want to learn about the magic of textiles and fashion, but can't sew a stitch, will get a nip-and-tuck history lesson when they start classes at the University of Alberta this spring and fall.

A new U of A exhibit is opening up grandma's sewing box to pay tribute to the sometimes quirky yet ingenious ways that seamstresses of the past did their intricate work.

"Tools of the Trade," which opened May 10 and runs until January 2012 in the main floor inner lobby of the Human Ecology building, features artifacts from the U of A's clothing and textiles collection, the private collections of faculty members and the Royal Alberta Museum.

Students enrolled in the Department of Human Ecology's clothing and textiles programs take a second-year course in apparel design and construction, and for some of them it is the first serious hands-on encounter they have with needles, thread and patterns. The exhibit will reinforce their connection to the craft of sewing and pass along a sense of traditions being upheld, said Vlada Blinova, course lecturer and manager of the University of Alberta Clothing and Textiles Collection.

"It's important to introduce students to these tools and how they were used in the past," Blinova said. "It helps them build an understanding of the skill and techniques needed to sew."

The exhibit boasts about 50 artifacts dating as far back as the 18th century, including antique sewing machines, some of them child-sized. On loan from the Royal Alberta Museum, the machines are pint-sized cousins of the everyday versions used by women in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Their daughters, as young as

four or five, learned to sew alongside them, with the little machines doubling as toys and learning tools.

Knowing how to sew was a crucial skill for women, who, when wed, were expected to clothe their families and decorate their homes using needle, thread and their own creativity. The exhibit represents a female rite of passage, Blinova said.

"It was important for a woman to be ready for her adult life, to sew and take care of her family. And the earlier they started to learn, the better their skills were by the time they were ready to get married." The oldest artifact in the exhibit, a sampler completed by an 11-year-old girl in 1736, shows the level reached by a tender age. "You can see the high quality of craftsmanship at such a young age."

The exhibit also boasts an oddball assortment of sewing tools, including a crimping iron, heated with a metal block and perfect for creating bits of pleated frou-frou on a frock. Tailor's soap from turn-of-the-century England, used to mark cloth for cutting, is also shown, and was the forerunner to the dressmaker's chalk used today.

The exhibit features pedestrian items like pin cushions and hot sadirons of all sizes, which were used to smooth the most delicate lace and hard-to-reach corners. But alongside those artifacts are personal, well-worn items like sewing boxes, a wire mesh dress form and a thimble collection. Vibrant gown illustrations from an early 19th-century collection of fashion plates also opens a window to the hottest patterns of the day, to which any well-tailored woman would have aspired.

Robyn Stobbs, a fourth-year Human Ecology student majoring in clothing and textiles, feels the connection with the sewing tools that were used more than 100 years ago, even though she'll never likely use them herself.

"I always like to see the history behind what I am doing." ■



Robyn Stobbs shows off one of the sewing boxes from the Department of Human Ecology's "Tools of the Trade" exhibit.

## Researchers take team approach to patient safety during spinal manipulation

Sandra Pysklywyc

A recent team grant by the Canadian Institute for Health Research is providing an innovative approach to researching patient safety for those who provide and receive spinal-manipulative therapy.

The \$2-million grant over five years brings together health researchers from across Canada and will involve input from four regulatory colleges in Alberta. "From everything we understand about patient safety, the best way to achieve it is through a multidisciplinary approach—this involves four different professions all of whom have one area that overlaps," said Sunita Vohra, professor in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry and Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research scholar. "Approximately half our population in Canada has received the therapy."

"To the best of our knowledge, this is the first time that the four colleges have collaborated with each other in a research initiative. We're thrilled to work with the colleges of medicine,

osteopathy, physical therapy and chiropractic."

Vohra is joined on the Canada-wide team by fellow University of Alberta researchers Greg Kawchuk, professor in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine and Canada Research Chair in Spinal Function, and Timothy Caulfield, professor in the Faculty of Law and School of Public Health, as well as Heather Boon from the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy at University of Toronto and Maeva O'Beirne from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Calgary.

Spinal manipulation, which is a non-invasive manual procedure applied to specific body tissues with therapeutic intent, is the most common complementary and alternative medicine procedure provided in North America. While manipulation is most commonly provided by chiropractors, it is also provided by physiotherapists, physicians and osteopaths.

At present, there is no formal reporting mechanism to document adverse events associated with manipulation. The study team aims to create a culture of safety around manipulation by developing instruments that practitioners and patients can use to record and report adverse events.

Caulfield, research director at the Health Law Institute, AHFMR senior scholar and Canada Research Chair in Health Law and Policy, will be exploring, as part of the study, the legal obligations of health-care providers, including the obligation to disclose the risks and limitations of the therapy.

"We are going to analyze the legal obligations associated with adverse events as well as explore how this therapy is depicted in the popular press," said Caulfield. "The public gets much of its information from the news, so we want to figure out what the news says about

risks, limitations and adverse events."

Kawchuk will be looking at understanding how tissues might be injured from spinal manipulation and how that possibility can be reduced. With this information, he says he hopes to "design different ways to deliver spinal manipulation and create specific training simulators to help clinicians better deliver spinal manipulation."

This team approach is a novel tactic that is generating unique opportunities for the team members to interact and produce new ideas almost immediately.

All five researchers met at the U of A May 19 with participants from the regulatory colleges as well as health-care providers, students and policy makers to begin a dialogue around fine tuning the grant and its implementation.

"It's a way to engage with people most directly involved from the very beginning," said Vohra. "The area we are studying, spinal manipulation, is something we all have in common in our regulated scope of practice. We're not taking a narrow look at this issue." ■

**"To the best of our knowledge, this is the first time that the four colleges have collaborated with each other in a research initiative."**

Sunita Vohra

## Student plan for abandoned gas plant leads to writing award, galvanizes town

Bev Betkowsky

Once the industrial heart-beat of a community, the Turner Valley Gas Plant now sits idle, waiting for a new use. When John Barlow, editor of the *Okotoks Western Wheel*, heard about the plan that University of Alberta students had to repurpose the abandoned plant in the southern Alberta town, he knew he had to write about it.

"We ran a story because the students proposed an extremely unique idea on how to utilize the plant, and provided some viable alternatives to resuscitate it. It also sparked a debate in our readership area and across Alberta regarding the future of the gas plant. Residents in the area are once again talking about doing something with it."

The newspaper story, which outlined details of a plan to turn the former gas plant into a greenhouse for Alberta prairie grasses, won the 2011 University of Alberta Writing Award. The innova-

tive plan was developed as a class project by undergraduate students, under the guidance of Anne Naeth, professor of renewable resources at the U of A.

Though hypothetical in nature, the plan was extensively researched and is feasible in the community's eyes, Barlow said.

"Now there is a real push in the community to have the gas plant developed as an interpretive centre using some of the proposals included in the study done by the U of A."

The writing award, which included second- and third-place winners, was given out May 7 at the 91st annual spring convention of the Alberta Weekly Newspapers Association.

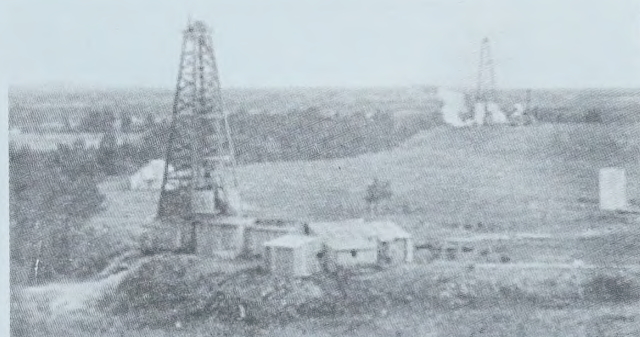
Established in 2006 by the U of A's Office of University Relations, the award recognizes outstanding coverage by Alberta's community newspapers of U of A students, research projects or coverage of provincial post-secondary education issues in general. It was created as part of the university's ongoing

commitment to rural Alberta and its communities.

"The U of A is the province's flagship university, and as such we seek to have a positive impact on all the communities we serve," said Deborah Pozega Osburn, vice-president of university relations. "That impact can come through research discoveries, through the good work that our alumni are doing in their home communities, through our ability to provide a world-class education to Albertans—in more ways, really, than we can imagine."

"This year's award-winning story is particularly important because it brings to light ways that University of Alberta students can contribute to the well-being of our communities," Pozega Osburn added. "We commend the *Okotoks Western Wheel* for the work that it does to keep its readers informed of issues that affect their daily lives, and thank the editorial team for its coverage of our students and their contributions."

Judges named Barlow's story the winner for its depth in showing how



A newspaper story about a plan that U of A students had to repurpose the abandoned gas plant in Turner Valley into a greenhouse won the 2011 U of A Writing Award.

undergraduate research has real-life applications.

The second-place winner was a story published in the *Westlock News* highlighting a U of A study being conducted in a local school by education professor Marie-Claire Shanahan. The story described how Shanahan was working to bring complex scientific information to a level that would engage elementary

school students.

Third place went to the *St. Albert Saint City News* for a story written about a philosopher-in-residence program at a local elementary school led by U of A scholars John Simpson and Rob Wilson. The spirit of the story was deemed by judges to reflect the U of A's promise of "uplifting the people" by being involved in the community. ■

Supplied



# news [shorts]

folio presents a sample of some of the research stories that recently appeared on ExpressNews, the U of A's online news source, and other campus news sources. To read more, go to [www.expressnews.ualberta.ca](http://www.expressnews.ualberta.ca).

## Researchers invited to apply to funding program

Launched by Alberta Innovates Bio Solutions and funding partners, the aim of the new "Quality Food for Health" research and innovation program is to improve the health and well-being of Albertans while increasing the competitiveness of the province's food and agricultural industries. This three-year innovative program has base funding of \$4 million with the unique ability to obtain additional funds from the funding partners if projects are in alignment with their research needs.

Researchers with a strong Alberta connection within private industry, academic institutions, provincial and federal research centres or non-profit research establishments are invited to submit a letter of intent to the program as the first step of the application process for a non-repayable research grant. Multidisciplinary teams and collaboration are encouraged to foster innovative research projects. The deadline for receipt of the LOI is Friday, June 10, 2011 at 2 p.m. Forms and additional information is available at [www.albertainnovates.ca/bio/funding](http://www.albertainnovates.ca/bio/funding).

## Creating high-value chemicals from seed oil

A two-step process that converts plant oil into an organic polyol is opening up a world of commercial possibilities.

Jonathan Curtis, in the Department of Agricultural Food and Nutritional Sciences, and his research group have discovered how to convert canola oil into organic polyol, or biopolyol, used to produce polyurethanes and adhesives.

Canola oil is first mixed with hydrogen peroxide to yield epoxidized canola oil, or ECO. It is then mixed with a diol under acidic conditions to create the bio-polyol Lipol.

"Polyols are used to manufacture polymer like polyesters, polyimides and polyurethanes," says Curtis. "Polyurethanes in particular have large commercial applications and right now, it's the petrochemical industry that produces the overwhelming majority of polyurethane."

However, Polyurethane produced from Curtis' biopolyol can easily be used as a substitute for petrol-based polyol. The group is currently working with a major car parts manufacturer to develop rigid foam products to make parts such as dashboards and headliners. In a separate project, Curtis and his team are collaborating with a local company to optimize the manufacture of rigid foam insulation panels to be used in the manufacture of modular buildings, providing structural integrity and greener thermal insulation.

## New research initiative to help health-care aides

Alberta's seniors and those in home care can look forward to improved efficiency of care thanks to a new research initiative funded by Alberta Health and Wellness. The research team led by Lili Liu, principal investigator from the University of Alberta is looking at how technology can help address the workloads of health care aides, Alberta's second largest group of front-line health-care providers.

Alberta Health and Wellness awarded the inter-disciplinary team a grant of \$800,000 to research technologies for the province's health-care aides who serve older adults living at home with chronic conditions.

With an expected demand for at least 5,000 HCAs in the next five years and the number of seniors in Alberta expected to double in 20 years, Liu says this partnership could not come at a better time.

"HCAs are important to the care of so many seniors and we want to make sure that quality care continues," says Liu, who is also the chair of occupational therapy at U of A's Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine. "The research initiative addresses home care and aging-in-place—we are interested in older adults, chronic conditions and palliative and mental health."

Over a period of one year, this project will document and analyze the work-flows and workload issues of HCAs and identify and implement affordable technologies to help deal with these issues.

## Heart research earns award for undergraduate student

Why some people in a warm environment may feel lightheaded or nauseous after standing intrigues kinesiology undergraduate student Tim Just. His quest to discover the answer to that question earned him the award for "out-standing presentation in biophysical sciences" at the annual Bertha Rosenstadt National Undergraduate Research Conference at the University of Toronto.

Just was particularly interested in looking at the difference in the output of blood from the heart's left ventricle in study participants who were first heat-stressed, then tilted 30 degrees to simulate the effects of standing, and who then either experienced symptoms of faintness or nausea, or had no symptoms at all.

"We found big differences in the diastolic phase of the heart between people who were symptomatic and asymptomatic. The volume of the heart, when completely filled, decreased much more in the symptomatic group than the asymptomatic group. That meant that because the heart wasn't able to sufficiently supply the brain with enough blood, it resulted in feelings of lightheadedness and nausea in the symptomatic participants."

Just says his appetite for research has been whetted. He begins his master's degree this September looking at vascular tone control. "My undergraduate degree has been a great experience, particularly for the connection you get with Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation. I can't imagine doing the things I've been able to do here, anywhere else." ■



Hal Friesen and Renee Polziehn demo some of Hal's research to high school students via video conference.

## Grad student shares laser research with high school students—online

Ryan Heise

Hal Friesen enthusiastically explains the demo he has set up before him. Perched on a stack of books, a laser is aimed at a whiteboard and a beaker of water. He dims the lights in his lab and shows how light changes direction when passing through water. It's a deceptively simple demo but perfectly illustrates the concept of refraction.

A graduate student in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Friesen brings the lights back up and asks if there are any questions. It seems like an odd query considering the only other person in the room is Renee Polziehn, outreach coordinator for the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, seated behind a laptop. But on the other end of that laptop are dozens of students across Alberta, taking in Friesen's presentation on laser research at the U of A.

For the past year, Friesen has been working with Polziehn and the FGSR giving presentations and tours of the U of A to junior-high and high-school students via video conference. Today he's giving a presentation on his area of research – lasers – to students at Edmonton's Queen Elizabeth High School and Barrhead Composite High

School in Barrhead, a rural community about an hour's drive northwest of the city.

Now in its third year, video conference outreach at the U of A has grown in response to the desire to engage with communities outside of Edmonton.

**"This is just one way to get out and share research with schools. But for rural schools, it might be the only way to experience it."**

Hal Friesen

"This is just one way to get out and share research with schools," Friesen said. "But for rural schools, it might be the only way to experience it."

Polziehn agrees, adding that the video conference eliminates many of the barriers to rural engagement.

"You could get someone to travel out to talk about a specific topic, like lasers or engineering in general, but that's time consuming and you can't take a lab with you. The ability to visit a world-class research facility with-

out travelling, without bus fees, and without waivers for students, is very valuable," she said.

For Friesen, who is aiming to finish his master's degree in a few months, participating in the program acts as a refresher for the toll working in a lab can have on you.

"I have a bit of difficulty balancing everything, but I'm happy I'm doing it. It's a bit of a reality check for why I'm doing research. You sometimes forget why you're doing it, so it's good to share it and talk about it in different ways."

The program has grown beyond Alberta and campus tours, however, and is now connecting the U of A and local schools with schools across Canada and the U.S., as well as with students in the Middle East and Europe, to share ideas and perspectives on various topics. Friesen notes that high-school students aren't the only ones benefiting from the program's expanded focus.

"My favourite part about this outreach is meeting new people and seeing what else is happening on campus, like the liberal arts day we had recently."

"I would have never set out to learn about that stuff myself, but it was really interesting." ■

## classified ads

### ACCOMMODATIONS FOR RENT

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EXECUTIVE 1 BEDROOM PLUS DEN. 9929 Saskatchewan Drive. Over 2,000 sq. ft. Parking, pool, fitness, hardwood floors, river view. \$2,800/month. Please call Michael Jenner or Janet Fraser at 780-441-6441 or email [jennfra@interbaun.com](mailto:jennfra@interbaun.com). Gordon W.R. King & Assoc. Real Estate Corp.

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UNIVERSITY MINUTES AWAY. 1 bedroom plus den suite. Large condo with underground parking stall. Two balconies. Available July 1, 2011. \$1,600/month. Call Michael Jenner or Janet Fraser at 780-441-6441 or email [jennfra@interbaun.com](mailto:jennfra@interbaun.com). Gordon W.R. King & Assoc. Real Estate Corp.

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### ACCOMMODATIONS FOR SALE

UNIVERSITY AREA. Large 3 bedroom plus loft, 2 1/2 storey, 2,185 sq. ft. home. Half block from Belgravia LRT stop. Built 1992. Separate 2 bedroom basement suite. \$550,000. [bowman@math.ualberta.ca](mailto:bowman@math.ualberta.ca).

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### NOTICES

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## U of A Press leads way with 13 Alberta Book Publishing nominations

Michael Brown

The University of Alberta Press' books have been judged by their covers as part of the 2011 Alberta Book Publishing Awards, which saw the U of A Press lead the way with 13 nominations, including three of four nods in the book-cover category and a bid for publisher of the year.

The three U of A Press books in the Book Cover/Jacket Design were all designed by the press' Alan Brownoff. The list includes *Too Bad* by Robert

Kroetsch, *The Measure of Paris* by Stephen Scobie, and *Will the Real Alberta Please Stand Up?* by Geo Takach.

Brownoff was also nominated in the book design category for *The Measure of Paris* and *Rudy Wiebe: Collected Stories, 1955-2010* by Rudy Wiebe.

U of A Press books also took three of four spots in the Scholarly and Academic Book Award category. The nominations included *J.B. Harkin* by E.J. (Ted) Hart, *The Beginning of Print Culture in Athabasca Country* by Patricia Demers, translated by Naomi McIlwraith and Dorothy Thunder, and

*"Collecting Stamps Would Have Been More Fun"* by Stouck & Stouck, Eds.

Rounding out the U of A Press nominations were *Rudy Wiebe: Collected Stories, 1955-2010* the Trade Fiction Book Award category, *The Measure of Paris* and Myrna Kostash's *Prodigal Daughter* in the Trade Non-Fiction Book Award category, and *Memory's Daughter* by Alice Major is up for a Poetry Book Award.

"Our deep commitment to publishing books of excellence showed in the steady stream of design, content, and editorial awards our books

and team members have garnered. Combined with the strength of our dedicated marketing team, there can be little doubt that the University of Alberta Press is a publisher par excellence," said Cathie Crooks, sales and marketing manager for the U of A Press. "We are particularly pleased to see the nomination for Publisher of the Year. 2010 saw the publication of some of the most ambitious printed books in the 41-year history of the University of Alberta Press."

The awards will be handed out June 11 in Calgary. ■

# talks & events

Talks & Events listings do not accept submissions via fax, mail, email or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in folio and on Express News at: [www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/events/submit.cfm](http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/events/submit.cfm). A more comprehensive list of events is available online at [www.events.ualberta.ca](http://www.events.ualberta.ca). Deadline: noon one week prior to publication. Entries will be edited for style and length.

Until June 24

**The Last Best West: Glimpses of the Prairie Provinces from the Golden Age of Postcards.** This exhibition of postcards is from the settlement and urbanization of the Canadian Northwest. The Peel's Prairie Provinces postcard collection contains thousands of fascinating and informative images, including personalized views of first houses, farms and family groups, as well as important events, disasters and buildings. Admission is free. Exhibition catalogues are available for \$25. Noon-4:30 p.m. Lower level, South Rutherford Library.

May 22, 29, June 5 & 12

**Opera NUOVA Presents: Masterclass Series.** This series offers the public an opportunity to see the work it takes to become a great singer. For more information go to [www.vocallartsfestival.ca](http://www.vocallartsfestival.ca)

**May 25 Sustainability: Pedagogies and Teaching Practices.** Explore some pedagogies associated with sustainability- some top tips and also deeper explorations of teaching practices. 9 a.m.-noon. 217/219 TELUS Centre

The Elite Female Athlete:

**Putting the Evidence into Practice (part 4)**

Part four in a series discussing applied information for those working with female athletes. Topic: Coaching Insight. Moderator: Dru Marshall. Keynote: Darren Treasure, performance psychology consultant for Nike's Oregon Project. Panel discussion follows with Pandas coaches Howie Draper, Laurie Eisler, Liz Jepsen and Russ Sluchinski. Noon-1:30 p.m. E120 Physical Education and Recreation Centre, Van Vliet.

**May 26-28 International Conference on Planning, Law and Property Rights. Law Centre.** [www.law.ualberta.ca/plpr/2011/index.php](http://www.law.ualberta.ca/plpr/2011/index.php).

May 26

**Sharing Indigenous Languages.** Discussions will focus on issues faced in sharing Indigenous languages, while also focusing on successes thus far, particularly in the creative realm. Six panels of speakers representing the Cree, Nisga'a, Sto:lo, Salish, Innu, Michif and Mi'kmaq languages from across Canada. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Grand Salon Pavillon Lacerte. [www.ualberta.ca/NATIVESTUDIES](http://www.ualberta.ca/NATIVESTUDIES).

25th anniversary party

**Garneau University Childcare Centre.** Families of all current and former attendees of the centre are invited to come and celebrate at 4:30-7 p.m. at Garneau School, 10925 87 Ave.

May 27

**Making a Difference with Community-Based Research: Mobilizing Knowledge to Inform Policy and Practice.** Participants will have opportunities to learn how CBR can be an effective means to create and share knowledge and more. Pre-registration is required. 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Enterprise Square. [www.cup.ualberta.ca/index.php](http://www.cup.ualberta.ca/index.php).

**Campus Sustainability Tour.** Join us for a virtual and walking tour featuring sustainable practices in our community at the U of A. The tour is from 3-4:30 p.m. The virtual tour starts at the Office of Sustainability, 2-06 North Power Plant. This free walking tour run every two weeks during the spring to fall. Spaces for the tours are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

May 29

**Alumni Memorial Service.** The U of A Alumni Association hosts an inter-faith service in honour of members

of our alumni family who passed away in 2010. The service is conducted by U of A chaplains and features the Mixed Chorus. This event is by invitation; please contact Colleen Elliott at 780-492-0866 for more information. 2 p.m. Convocation Hall Arts and Convocation Hall.

June 1

**Research Administration Day 2011.** The Research Services Office offers continuing education and professional development seminars for university staff. The event provides practical presentations and interactive workshops focused on the complexity, diversity, and accountability of administrative responsibilities with research funding. The purpose of Research Administration Day is to promote and support excellence in research administration. Registration for all sessions is now available via the Learning Shop. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. TELUS Centre.

June 3

**Living a Theology of Diversity.** Yoon Ok Shin and Wilson MacLennan will explore and discuss biblical passages regarding the treatment and social standing of widows, orphans and more. With personal stories and experi-

ence comparisons will be made as we explore the assumptions of our cultural and faith communities in contemporary Canadian society, including conversations around racism and homophobia. Noon-2 p.m. St. Stephen's College.

**Reading and Discussion with Kim Echlin.** Echlin, a 2009 Giller Prize Nominee, will give a reading from her latest novel, *The Disappeared*. She will talk about the process of writing this novel, including travel in Cambodia, research on international truth commissions and the relationship between literature and the act of witness. This event is part of the Opening Reception of Women's Words: Summer Writing Week. 5-7 p.m. Room 2-922 Enterprise Square. [www.womenswords.ca](http://www.womenswords.ca).

**Poetry as Spiritual Nourishment in Caregiving.** Shirley Serviss will describe her work at the U of A Hospitals as a literary artist on the wards where she uses poetry to reconnect patients with their spirits, provide comfort to their families and to inspire staff. She will also share some of her own poetry written in response to her encounters with patients and as self-care. 7-9 p.m. [www.ualberta.ca/ST.STEPHENS/](http://www.ualberta.ca/ST.STEPHENS/)

## Spring Convocation 2011

June 5 (Camrose)

2:30 p.m. Augustana Campus, Convocation Centre. Honorary Degree: Craig Kielburger.

June 7

3 p.m. Engineering, Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium. Honorary Degree: Ron Triffo.

June 8

10 a.m. Arts (Last names starting with A-K). Honorary Degree: Joe Schlesinger.

3 p.m. Arts (Last names starting with L-Z). Honorary Degree: Palagummi Sainath.

June 9

10 a.m. Education (Secondary,

Adult, Diplomas only); Physical Education and Recreation. Honorary Degree: Louise Hayes.

3 p.m. Education (Elementary degrees only). Honorary Degree: TBD.

June 10

10 a.m. Graduate Studies and Research (Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Education, and Doctor of Music degrees only); Medicine and Dentistry. Honorary Degree: Austin Mardon.

3 p.m. Extension.

June 13

3 p.m. Graduate Studies and Research (Master's degrees and Postgraduate Diplomas only); Rehabilitation Medicine (Master's degrees only); School of Public Health

(Master's degrees only). Honorary Degree: Bunny Ferguson.

June 14

10 a.m. Business. Honorary Degree: John Chin Sun Lau.

3 p.m. Nursing; Faculté Saint-Jean. Honorary Degree: Karen Luker.

June 15

10 a.m. Science (general degrees only); Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences; Native Studies. Honorary Degree: Charlie Kakotok Evalik.

3 p.m. Law; Science (Honors and Specialization degrees only). Honorary Degree: Efim Zelmanov.

## laurels

Michael MacDonald and Mary Ingraham, professors in the Department of Music, received the Cambridge University Press Award at the recent Society for American Music Conference.

Michael Mengel, acting chair in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, received the American Society of Transplantation Clinical Science Investigator Award at the Associate Professor Level.

Norbert Morgenstern, professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, has received the 2011 H Bolton Seed Medal from the American Society of Civil Engineers. The award is given for exceptional contributions and outstanding productivity in education and consulting.

## Who knows best?



Studio Theatre's production of the "The Cripple of Inishmaan" by Martin McDonagh is playing at the Timms Centre for the Arts until May 28.



# University in BLOOM



the  
*BackPage*